

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1696 without my signature. This bill would circumvent the collective bargaining process by requiring retroactive pay increases for employees of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, which were not agreed to during negotiations.

Furthermore, signing this bill would undermine the collective-bargaining process by encouraging bargaining units to come to the Legislature to determine the outcome rather than follow the process set forth in law requiring negotiation between the parties locally.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger